

In The Claims

1. (currently amended) In a microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a standard power inlet connected to said element, said standard power inlet rated to provide a first voltage, the improvement comprising:

~~an a~~ standard auxiliary power outlet connected to said standard power inlet; said standard auxiliary power outlet ~~rated to providing provide~~ a second voltage, said second voltage capable of being adjustably identical to said first voltage~~power inlet, said standard auxiliary power outlet~~ and operatively arranged for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device associated with said microscope stand.

2. (Original) The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said power inlet of said microscope stand and said auxiliary power outlet are formed according to a common standard chosen from a plurality standards in use throughout the world.

3. (Original) The improvement according to claim 1, further comprising a cover installed to prevent access to said auxiliary power outlet, wherein said cover is adapted to be removable by a service technician but not by an end user.

4. (Original) The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said electrically powered element is an illumination source.

5. (previously presented) A microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a power inlet rated to provide a voltage and connected to said element, said microscope stand comprising:

an auxiliary power outlet connected to said power inlet for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device, said power inlet, said power cord and said power outlet rated to provide an identical voltage and adapted for accepting a standard International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) electrical connector.

6. (Previously presented) The microscope stand of Claim 5 wherein said power inlet and said power outlet are operatively arranged on an outer surface of said microscope stand.

7. (previously presented) In a desktop microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a power inlet rated to provide a voltage and connected to said element, said desktop microscope stand comprising:

an auxiliary power outlet rated to provide a voltage identical to said power inlet and connected to said power inlet, said auxiliary power outlet operatively arranged for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device, said power inlet and said power outlet operatively arranged on an outer surface of said desktop microscope stand.

8. (previously presented) The desktop microscope stand of Claim 7 wherein said power inlet, said power cord and said power outlet are adapted for accepting a standard International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) electrical connector.

9. (previously presented): The desktop microscope stand of Claim 8 wherein said power inlet comprises a male plug portion for accepting a first female outlet of said power cord and said auxiliary power outlet comprises a second female outlet for accepting a male plug portion of a power cord of an auxiliary device therein.